



Alabama Department of Homeland Security



A letter from the Director...

In the next few months, our department will embark on an extensive media campaign to alert the public about the growing threat of active shooters.

We have gathered information from multiple law enforcement experts and have developed a plan that will give the public more options should they find themselves in this situation.

As you see the billboards, digital media boards in RSA buildings, and public service announcements on the TV and radio, I encourage you to help us by sharing the message with your family and friends.

If ALDHS can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Thank you,

Spencer Collier

What's Inside:

Formal Incident Plan: Active Shooter.....	2
Virtual Alabama.	3
Grant Reports.....	4
Senior Law Enforcement Advisor.....	6

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR ROBERT BENTLEY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2012

Governor Bentley Tasks AL DHS Director Spencer Collier to Develop Formal Incident Response Plan

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Monday tasked Alabama Department of Homeland Security Director Spencer Collier with developing a strategic plan for preventing and responding to incidents of active shooters at various facilities.

“We have been working for some time on a coordinated effort to prevent and respond to situations such as active shooters,” Governor Bentley said. “This requires not only continued law enforcement training, but also input and preparation among the public. We hope to prevent tragedies from happening. In the event of a tragedy, we are prepared to respond.”

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security has three top priorities in preparing the formal long-range plan:

- Continue and expand training for law enforcement in how to respond to and combat an active shooter event
- Engage the private sector in sharing information, and educate the general public on how to respond to an active shooter event
- Continue work with the Alabama Department of Education, utilizing the Virtual Alabama system, which makes school safety plans immediately accessible to first responders

Already, the Alabama Department of Homeland Security provides valuable resources to help people prepare. Safety information and a video can be found on the ALDHS website at <http://www.dhs.alabama.gov/activeshooter.aspx>. (The subject matter of the video is sensitive. Parental guidance is suggested.)

Also, a hotline is already available to receive anonymous tips on suspicious persons or activity. The hotline can be reached at 1-866-229-6220. The hotline connects people with the Alabama Fusion Center, the state’s intelligence and information sharing operation.

There is also an online form through which people can submit information. The form can be accessed at: <http://fusion.alabama.gov/Report-Suspicious-Activity.aspx>.

“Training law enforcement to combat active shooters, while also preparing the public, are top priorities for the Alabama Department of Homeland Security,” Director Collier said. “We never know when the training will be needed. The key is to prepare ahead of time. We will continue to engage with our state and local partners in making sure our plan is comprehensive and up-to-date. I look forward to presenting the Governor with a strategic plan for the coordination of our statewide efforts.”



VIRTUAL ALABAMA

The university of Montevallo with the Alabama Department of Homeland Security uses online mapping technology through the Virtual Alabama program to deliver 37 layers of information on an unprecedented

level of detail concerning the campus buildings, utilities and infrastructure, as well as emergency planning functions.

The Virtual Alabama technology that uses Google Earth has been employed in Hurricane Katrina response, mapping of the devastating 2011 tornadoes in the state and response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Lamar Davis, project director at the Center for Government and Public Affairs at Auburn University at Montgomery, said the technology can assist first-responders and others in numerous scenarios including an armed robbery suspect on campus or a gas leak in a building.

Emergency officials can immediately view maps of buildings as they plan their response to situations, access real-time security camera video feeds and learn exact locations of utility lines and shutoff valves, all at their fingertips with a computer, Davis said.

Spencer Collier, director of Alabama Homeland Security, said more than 2,200 school officials and first-responders have been trained in the use of Virtual Alabama since 2009. The system includes 1,500 school floor plans in the state during that time.

"The applications are limitless," Collier said, noting that Federal Emergency Management Agency looks to Alabama's program as a model. "This program has been so highly recognized that Virtual USA, which is FEMA's version of this, is based on Virtual Alabama."

Virtual Alabama receives funding through the state homeland security grant program, Collier said. "We're not talking about a multimillion-dollar operation. We're operating this around a half-million dollars a year -- for the entire state. That is a lot of bang for the buck," he said.

ALERRT for the Capitol Complex February 25-56

ALERRT Instructor Refresher Courses March 6-7, Montgomery April 3-4, Huntsville April 17-18, Mobile

Director Spencer Collier Announces Grant Award for Mobile County Law Enforcement

The Alabama Department of Homeland Security (ALDHS) announced a grant awarded to the Mobile County Sheriff's Office. The grant, totaling, \$48,043.00, was acquired through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Operation Stonegarden Grant (OPSG) which uses an integrated approach to address transnational criminal activity.

The grant will be used to fund operational overtime to coordinate border security activities. Participation in OPSG is based on the expectation the state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies will conduct border-security operations using an Integrated Planning Team chaired by the U.S. Border Patrol, which will provide routine monitoring and technical expertise to each participating agency. Each operation will be reviewed for border-security value. The program focuses on key areas like monitoring program performance; assessing productivity and results; determining the level of integration and information sharing; evaluation of funds spent and operations conducted; and developing best practices for future operations.

The State Homeland Security Grant Program is provided by the US Department of Homeland Security and administered by the Alabama Department of Homeland Security. Director Spencer Collier serves as Alabama's State Administrative Agent as well as Alabama's Homeland Security Advisor. The grant program is used to bolster and sustain homeland security initiatives across the state assisting numerous jurisdictions and agencies.

I want to commend the Mobile Sheriff's Office for winning the nationwide competitive grant," Director Collier said. "This provides a unique opportunity for federal, state, and local collaboration to secure our borders.

Governor Names Director Spencer Collier “Senior Law Enforcement Advisor”

Currently, more than 20 state-level agencies and departments have various law enforcement functions. By improving coordination between those agencies, the Governor’s plans will help minimize redundancies in administrative functions and focus more resources on strengthening the law enforcement services delivered to the public.

“The end result will be improved public safety,” Governor Bentley said. “By reducing duplications in administrative functions, we can save taxpayer dollars while putting more law enforcement on the road. In outlining these plans, I have worked closely with law enforcement officials over a period of several months. It’s important that we continue to rely on the expertise of these law enforcement professionals who understand the needs of each agency.”

Governor Bentley’s executive order will allow state-level law enforcement agencies to build upon recent efforts to improve coordination. Specifically, the executive order creates the position of Senior Law Enforcement Advisor. Alabama Department of Homeland Security Director Spencer Collier will serve in this position.

Responsibilities of the Senior Law Enforcement Advisor will include:

- Emphasizing the placement of more law enforcement officers in the field while minimizing administrative redundancies within each agency
 - Providing efficiencies through common purchasing, consolidation of law enforcement fleet maintenance and a unified communication infrastructure
 - Establishing and maintaining a database of available state law enforcement resources and services in a manner that will minimize duplications of activities and better coordinate training
- Serving as the primary point of contact for the Governor regarding state law enforcement issues

The Senior Law Enforcement Advisor will ensure greater coordination by working closely with the leadership of all state agencies providing law enforcement or public safety functions, including but not limited to the Alabama Department of Public Safety, the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Alabama Department of Homeland Security and the Alabama Department of Insurance / State Fire Marshal.





**Alabama Department of Homeland Security
P.O. Box 304115
Montgomery, Alabama 35130**

**Phone: 334-353-3050
Fax: 332-353-3072**

dhs.alabama.gov

Virtual Alabama School Safety Summit

March 4-5, 2013

The Virtual Alabama School Safety Summit will bring education, law enforcement, fire/ rescue, emergency management and homeland security officials from across Alabama together to gain valuable information for protecting our State's most precious assets—our children. Participants will build their knowledge and skills for:

- **Using Virtual Alabama and other school safety technologies**
- **Understanding and mitigating behavioral issues in schools**
- **Developing and exercising effective emergency operations plans for schools.**

To register, please go to <http://schoolsafety.aum.edu/>

